Post-matric scholarships in Punjab

1647. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTfCE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Central assistance given to Punjab for grant of post-matric scholarships to students of weaker sections of society, during the last three years ending on the 31 st March, 2007, category-wise and year-wise;

(b) if so, the number of students in each category who got the scholarships, year-wise;

(c) whether the entire assistance was utilized; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and whether the same was withdrawn or adjusted in the following year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Post-Matric Scholarships to SC students.

Year	Central Assistance released	Beneficiary covered*
2004-05	Nil	6930
2005-06	Nil	40714
2006-07	1091.50 lakhs	60612

* under the scheme, Central assistance is released for the total expenditure, over and above their respective Committed Liability. In case expenditure is less than committed liability, no Central assistance is released.

Post-Matric Scholarships to OBC student

Year	Central Assistance released	Beneficiary covered
2004-05	109.53 lakhs	8266
2005-06	138.42 lakhs	22492
2006-07	Nil	–

Post-Matric Scholarships to ST students.

No Central assistance released during the last three years.

(c) and (d) In respect of SC students, utilization certificate for Central assistance released during 2006-07 is awaited. In case of OBC students, grants released in 2004-05 has been utilized. U.C. in respect of grants released in 2005-06 is awaited. The unspent avaibale with States/UTs is adjusted while considering Centra1 assistance in subsequent years.